

To review, every sentence has at least one independent clause. When a sentence consists of only one independent clause, we call that a **simple** sentence. If the sentence has two independent clauses—two main ideas—one connected to the other, we call that a **compound** sentence; typical structures are I,ccI and I;I. If the sentence has a dependent clause supporting the independent clause—one main idea with a supporting idea—we call that a **complex** sentence. Often, a complex sentence will take the form of D,I or ID; in other words, if the dependent clause comes first, we put a comma after it.

We have seen dependent clauses that act as adverbs, as in “*If I am assailed by disappointment*, no one will endeavour to sustain me in dejection.” We have also seen dependent clauses that act as nouns, as in “She averred *she would not go an inch*.” There is another interesting option, which is that a dependent clause can act as an adjective. Here is a sentence from Stephen Crane’s classic Civil War novel *The Red Badge of Courage*: “They were a sun-tanned, philosophical lot, who sometimes shot reflectively at the blue pickets.” By *pickets*, Crane meant enemy soldiers. The dependent clause acts as an adjective to modify the noun *lot*. Notice that the dependent clause does not make sense by itself.

